

[Aerial View of Proposed Ridgewalk Interchange](#)

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Update #050: *THE INTERCHANGE IS OPENED*****

The Ridgewalk Parkway/I-575 Interchange was opened today at 4:15pm.

The Interstate Exit signs read:
Ridgewalk Parkway
EXIT 9

Thanks and congratulations go out to the Georgia Department of Transportation and C.W. Matthews Contracting Co., Inc.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Tal Harber

Capital Projects Manager

Public Works Department

City of Woodstock

12453 Highway 92

Woodstock, GA 30188

Office: 770-592-6000 ext. 1703

Fax: 678-388-6350

e-mail: tharber@woodstockga.gov

Monday, November 5, 2012

Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Update #049: *PROJECT COMPLETION AND OPENING*****

Well you may have already heard or read the good news, but I thought this update should be sent out just in case you haven't. The Interchange contractor has provided GDOT and the City of Woodstock with a hard date of Friday, November 16, 2012 as the opening of all four of the ramps to and from I-575, and full use of the new bridge at Ridgewalk Parkway and I-575. Everyone has been very patient and cooperative during the past 21 months, and the city appreciates how well things have gone with this project despite the inconveniences it has presented residents and visitors to the area at times. In some ways it is hard to believe that construction actually began February 8, 2011. The change to the area is amazing.

The city would like to express appreciation to C.W. Matthews, the project contractor, and the Georgia Department of Transportation for a job well done. Also, congratulations to Matthews for an early completion. A noteworthy accomplishment for such a major project having special coordination conditions with the surrounding residences. We know so many people will be thrilled to have this new convenient access now available, especially in time for the holidays.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Tal Harber

Capital Projects Manager

Public Works Department

City of Woodstock

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Update #048:

If you've been near the Interchange project lately you can see that the contractor is nearing the point of wrapping up the site. Today the City received from the contractor's project manager this summary of the current state of the project:

"We are finishing the Ridgewalk Parkway remaining southern work to tie-in the new bridge. The remaining concrete paving at the ramps will be completed this Friday the 19th. The remaining asphalt will be installed next week. We will shift the two lanes currently traveling on the north portion of the bridge to the new southern section of the bridge. This shift will be sometime mid to the end of next week. Once I get the actual date, I will let you know. Once the traffic is shifted, we will complete the remaining curb and gutter, sidewalk, drainage and fencing along the north side of Ridgewalk. Based on our current schedule our goal is to be completed and have the new ramps open by Thanksgiving. Also, our asphalt crews are scheduled to install the final topping on I-575 tonight, beginning at 5 PM and working through the night to compete."

Of most notable importance is the paving that is taking place tonight. Please factor this into your travels along I-575. Also, please note that some of the dates and times are still unknown and subject to change. It is advised that the opening date of the ramps is of a high contingency condition. As has been regularly pointed out, GDOT has the final approval of when the ramps and full access to the bridge are permitted.

All this being said, it was expected that you would like to know just how close the finality of this project and the new access to I-575 is.

Also, although these Interchange updates do not address the outlet mall construction, I recently received an inquiry regarding the current state of Woodstock Parkway. It is obviously very irregular and has some extreme curvature. Please note that this is a temporary road that has been constructed for the purposes of handling traffic along Woodstock Parkway until the new and permanent location of Woodstock Parkway is completed. The City appreciates your patience while the new Woodstock Parkway roadway is completed by the outlet mall contractor. This temporary road is actually located where part of the outlet mall's parking lot is located. The new location of Woodstock Parkway will wrap around behind the mall and intersect with Ridgewalk Parkway in alignment with the entrance into Meridian subdivision. The completion and opening of the new section of the parkway is not known at this time.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Tal Harber

Capital Projects Manager

Public Works Department

City of Woodstock

Wednesday, September 26, 2012
Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Update #047:

It has been about one month since the last project update. During the past four weeks the project contractor has completed the Ridgewalk Parkway bridge with the exception of the concrete median and sidewalk along the north side. The contractor's roadway crews have moved back in this week to complete the approaches to the bridge, final curb and gutter, sidewalks, fencing, pavement and signage.

The contract completion date between the contractor and GDOT still remains December 31st, but the contractor is indicating that the new ramps may be open by the end of November. This, of course, is conditional based on their progress between now and the end of November, and ultimately the Department of Transportation's acceptance of the project and approval for any openings.

As we move closer to the opening of the ramps a firm date will be established. Once this opening date is confirmed by GDOT and the contractor the City will issue public notification of this opening by email and city website announcement.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,
Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department
City of Woodstock

Thursday, September 13, 2012
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #046

Work described in the previous update is still in progress. No new information to report at this time.

Wednesday, August 29, 2012
Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Update #045

Although it's only been about a month since the last Interchange update, work continues to progress on the project. For the most part the work has been focused on the 2nd half of the new Ridgewalk Parkway bridge ([see photo](#)). Similar to the 1st half, this process seems lengthy; however there are many steps and processes necessary for the construction of the bridge including considerations for proper concrete construction such as on-site fabrication, cure times and materials testing.

After checking in with the project contractor, the good news is the project is still on-time for completion and opening by December of this year. The opening is contingent on GDOT's acceptance of the project and approval to open, but at this time there doesn't seem to be any hindrances to this approval. What you will now see on-site is additional concrete work on the bridge, de-mobilization of equipment away from the site, and final tie-ins of Ridgewalk Parkway to the bridge. Final steps of the project will include the last layers of paving around the entire project (Ridgewalk Parkway, I-575, Rope Mill Road), final striping and signage, then clean-up. There is also some coordinated tie-in between the Interchange project and the Outlet Mall frontage which is still pending.

Also note that the Interchange and Outlet Mall/Woodstock Parkway projects are unrelated yet are occurring coincidental. It is possible that the individual timing of these two projects may result in some overlap with minor inconveniences, but the overall impact should always be minimal and very temporary.

I would also like to bring to your attention the City's newly re-designed website, www.woodstockga.gov. On the home page is a hot button for City Project Updates which includes a link to the Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Project and all of these updates. Also being included are selected month to month photos of the Interchange project from start to finish. Please check this out in addition to other past and present projects for the city. The updates to this page are on-going; therefore it is not yet 100% current.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,
Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department
City of Woodstock

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Update #044

****ATTENTIION - BRIEF BRIDGE CLOSURE DELAYS****

The Georgia Department of Transportation has just issued a notice that tomorrow, Thursday August 2nd and Friday August 3rd the Interchange contractor will be moving heavy equipment across the existing Ridgewalk Parkway bridge over I-575. This operation will temporarily block both lanes of the bridge for approximately 10 - 15 minutes starting at 10:00am both days. Both directions of traffic will be closed for this brief period of time. GDOT apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause, but the operation is a necessity and the time of day a best case decision. Because the ramps have not yet been fully completed or approved they will not be available for use, as well.

REPEAT: This is a brief closure of 10 to 15 minutes both Thursday and Friday at 10:00am. No long term delays beyond this time will occur.

This notice has been distributed as soon as it was received.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact the Georgia Department of Transportation, Lisa Wesley, District 6, Area 1 Engineer at (770) 387-3680.

Thank you,
Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Update #043

Although it's difficult to see, the Interchange contractor continues to make progress with this project. They are currently placing concrete at the abutments of the new bridge to "tie-in" the new beams to the abutments (see photo). As many of you know concrete work can be frustratingly slow especially in situations like this one where cure times must be strictly adhered to before moving on to the next stage.

Improvements along Ridgewalk Parkway at the Brookshire subdivision entrance are coming to an end, as well. The contractor has just completed the landscape restoration and grassing of the shoulders of the road so this area should begin to start looking less like a construction site (see photos).

Some delay is occurring along the area of coordination between the Interchange project and the new Outlet Mall project. This will have no effect on the completion of the Interchange.

Please remember and remind others that the new entrance and exit ramps which are part of this project are not complete, have not been authorized and fully accepted by the Department of Transportation, and are therefore closed to any public access on or off the Interstate. Please do not use these ramps. To do so is a violation of law, a safety hazard to those working on the project, to those driving along the interstate, and to those in the vehicle violating the road closure.

Also, please remember and remind others to honor the "Sidewalk Closed" signs. There are risks when using these incomplete sidewalk areas, and no one wants a broken ankle.

It has been asked a few times what the signage for this interchange will say and what the exit number will be.

The signage will say:

Exit 9

Ridgewalk Parkway

If you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Tal Harber

Capital Projects Manager

Public Works Department

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Update #042

Since the last Interchange update was issued the project has seen some significant advances. The second half of the new bridge is moving along with the near completion of both the east and west abutments, and the center piers in place (see photo). Soon we will see the installation of the bridge beams.

Ridgewalk Parkway has also undergone some major changes including the lowering of the road's profile from the bridge back towards Brookshire, the installation of curb along this section of road, and the installation of public sidewalks on both sides of Ridgewalk tying in at Brookshire and extending to the bridge. The sidewalks will eventually run across the bridge and tie into the sidewalks that have been and are being installed on the east side of the bridge.

Ridgewalk Parkway has seen some major changes, as you well know. Included with this Update is a photo from January 3, 2011 and a photo taken today June 21, 2012 from approximately the same spot; at the bridge facing west (notice the overhead utility wires as a reference). A lot can happen in 18 months! Progress continues and the contractor is on schedule to complete the project as planned.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact me.

Thank you,
Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department
City of Woodstock
12453 Highway 92
Woodstock, GA 30188

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Update #041

ATTENTION – TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE

This message is sent as a reminder that starting Friday of this week June 1, 2012, the Interchange contractor will begin work on a section of Ridgewalk Parkway approximately 400 feet in length starting at the entrance to Brookshire extending towards the new Ridgewalk Pkwy bridge. The work will be begin at 8:00 P.M. at which time the contractor will be reducing the travel lanes in this section down to one lane of traffic. Egress and ingress to Brookshire subdivision will be maintained at all times by flaggers and uniformed officers. The existing road will be lowered to the final grades, base and paving installed, and the two lanes restored no later than 5:00 AM Monday, June 4, 2012. Also, both properties (with driveways on the south side of Ridgewalk Pkwy west of the bridge) will have access at all times during the road work.

As always, weather is a factor. If the weather forecast changes and indicates the weather to be too inclement the project will be postponed and a notification of re-scheduling will be issued.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact me.

Thank you,
Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Monday, May 21, 2012
I-575/Ridgewalk Interchange Update #040

ATTENTION – TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE

Two weeks from today, on Friday June 1, 2012, the Interchange contractor will begin work on a section of Ridgewalk Parkway approximately 400 feet in length starting at the entrance to Brookshire working back towards the new bridge. This work is required by the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Interchange project, and will involve a complete re-grading and re-paving of this section of road. As a result a temporary lane closure will occur.

CW Matthews has provided the following description of the activities which will be required to accomplish this project:

"We will be begin at 8:00 P.M. Friday, June 1, 2012 by reducing the travel lanes in this section down to one lane of traffic.

Egress and ingress to Brookshire subdivision will be maintained at all times by flaggers and uniformed officers.

The existing road will be lowered to the final grades, base and paving installed, and the two lanes restored no later than 5:00 AM Monday, June 4, 2012."

Also, *"both properties (with driveways on the south side of Ridgewalk Pkwy west of the bridge) will have access at all times during the road work. We are scheduled to pave the new driveway next week."*

Based on the prior success of the detour during the bridge demolition it is expected that, although there will be some inconvenience to the residents of Brookshire, the process should move along smoothly.

Residents of Brookshire should plan on some delays entering and exiting their subdivision during this weekend. Your patience at that time is greatly appreciated.

Please alert other interested parties, vendors, and visitors to this area about this situation.

As always, weather is a factor. If the weather is too inclement the project will be postponed and a notification of re-scheduling will be issued.

Also, an update meeting was held this week between GDOT, CW Matthews, and the City. The project continues to move along on schedule with continued progress towards the completion of all four quadrant of ramps and most importantly the second half of the new bridge.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact me.

Thank you,
Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

I-575/Ridgewalk Interchange Update #039

As is now obvious, the old Ridgewalk Parkway bridge over I-575 was successfully demolished at the beginning of April. This task was logistically complex including the detour of I-575 in both directions, yet was successfully completed by the project general contractor, CW Matthews and their contractors, for GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation) as planned. Congratulations go out to them for this accomplishment.

There is a feeling now that the project is on the downhill side, and the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel" can now be seen. Work is now underway on the abutments for the second half of the new bridge (see photo), and details of the ramps and the new I-575 lanes are being completed. The contractor is also completing final utility relocation details and has been working on the cul-de-sac relocation construction task in Meridian subdivision (see photo). Additional work on Ridgewalk Parkway is still necessary to complete the project as a whole, therefore patience and understanding is still requested of those who use the local roads through the project limits. Admittedly when a project nears completion, such as this, it can be frustrating to see roads that appear to be complete not being used. There are many considerations, not the least of which is public safety, that prevent the use of these types of unfinished roadways. The public is asked to recognize and obey the safety barriers, barrels, cones and signage in order to maintain the highest degree of safety for themselves and construction crews (see photo). Please do not disregard the Road Closed signs within the project.

On that note:

Questions are being asked regarding the new ramps for Ridgewalk Parkway, which were used during the detour of I-575, concerning whether any of these four ramps will now be available for use since they appear to be usable. Unfortunately the answer is no. The only way these ramps were worthy of use during the demolition was by use of posted police officers and other temporary accommodations that the Interchange contractor made during the demolition process. The ramps are now officially closed, and will only be available for use after the ramps are completely tied into I-575, after Ridgewalk Parkway and the intersections of the ramps with Ridgewalk have been completed to a point at which GDOT officials confirm the work is complete, after all public safety requirements have been achieved per the project's plan, and at which time GDOT grants permission for their use. Public use of the ramps at this time is illegal.

The opening of the ramps is expected to occur when the project is completed, which is still targeted for December of this year, 2012.

Progress continues.....

Again, your patience, understanding, and cooperation at this time is critical and appreciated.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Sunday, April 1st

I-575/Ridgewalk Interchange Update #038

I-575 Traffic at Ridgewalk Interchange is Back to Normal
Bridge Demolition is Complete

Friday, March 30th

Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Update #037

****Bridge Demolition Update****

As I'm sure you are now aware, the transition from the old Ridgewalk Parkway bridge to the new north side bridge lanes successfully occurred this past Wednesday. The transition went smoothly with credit to CW Matthews' efforts.

With this stepping stone in place the demolition of the old bridge can now take place. After a meeting this morning with a CW Matthews representative and with the confirmed favorable weather forecast for this weekend, it has been confirmed that the detour of I-575 in both the north and south directions, the redirection of Brookshire subdivision traffic, and the demolition of the old bridge will take place this weekend as planned. As previously planned, the schedule for the demolition and detours will begin at 10:00pm this evening (Friday, March 30th) and should be completed this Sunday (April 1st) at approximately 12:00 noon.

Again, if you have any further questions or comments regarding these events please feel free to contact the following people:

CW Matthews Contracting Co., Inc.

Freddy Sumner, Division Vice President, Major Projects: (404) 376-1188

Will Stevenson, Project Superintendent: (404) 392-1094

Georgia Department of Transportation

Lisa Wesley, District 6, Area 1 Engineer: (770) 387-3680

Thank you,

Tal Harber

Capital Projects Manager

Public Works Department

Thursday, March 22, 2012
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #036

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FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AS PROVIDED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION AND C.W. MATTHEWS

****Bridge Demolition Update****

It was tentatively announced last week that the lane shifts of Ridgewalk Parkway to the new northern half of the bridge over I-575, and the process of demolishing the old bridge would occur soon. A meeting with the Georgia Department of Transportation and CW Matthews (the Interchange general contractor) occurred Tuesday, March 20th. It can now be officially announced that the shift of the Ridgewalk Parkway lanes will occur Wednesday, March 28th of next week. The actual shift of lanes will take no more than about 5 minutes, therefore there should be no noticeable impact to traffic in and out of Brookshire subdivision.

It can also now be officially announced that the demolition of the old Ridgewalk Parkway bridge over I-575 will occur the last weekend of March. I-575 will be detoured beginning Friday March 30th at 10:00 pm. The demolition is expected to last through the rest of Friday night, all day and night Saturday the 31st, and is expected to be complete by 12:00 noon Sunday April 1st. As previously described, vehicular flow along I-575 both north and southbound will be diverted up and down the new ramps of Ridgewalk Parkway in both directions so that bridge demolition can take place with speed and without endangerment to traffic that would otherwise be traveling under the bridge on I-575.

It is most important to note for Brookshire subdivision residents that no traffic will be allowed to cross the new Ridgewalk Parkway bridge in either direction during the entire time of this bridge demolition for the same safety purposes, therefore residents and visitors to Brookshire should take into consideration potential delays associated with the necessary re-routing of their access to the subdivision.

The following traffic routes will have to be used by those leaving or coming to Brookshire as follows:

1. All traffic coming out of Brookshire will be directed to the southbound entrance ramp from Ridgewalk Parkway onto I-575.
2. Those leaving Brookshire wishing to access local surface streets will need to access them by way of the Towne Lake Parkway interchange.
3. Those leaving Brookshire wishing to travel north on I-575 will take the southbound entrance ramp, exit at Towne Lake Parkway, turn left, and then take the northbound entrance ramp back on to I-575.
4. Those coming to Brookshire traveling south on I-575 will exit at the new Ridgewalk Parkway southbound exit ramp, and turn right.
5. Those coming to Brookshire traveling north on I-575 will need to travel with the detour up and over Ridgewalk Parkway, but will have to continue north along I-575 to the Sixes Road interchange, exit, turn left, then take the southbound entrance ramp back onto I-575 south, then exit at the new Ridgewalk Parkway southbound exit ramp, and turn right.
6. Those wishing to come to Brookshire that are using local surface streets will either need to access I-575 southbound at Sixes Road or access I-575 at Towne Lake Parkway or Hwy 92, travel north up to Sixes Road, and come back south as described in Item E.

Although this admittedly does present an inconvenience, the inconvenience is a very short and temporary one compared to the alternative of a lengthy process over weeks of consecutively shutting down lanes on I-575 and Ridgewalk Parkway. The decision to conduct this demolition as planned is a decision that GDOT and CW Matthews has made with the desire to get in and get out of the situation as quickly as possible for just this brief two day window of time. As previously noted, the contractor will have uniformed officers posted at strategic locations to assist with directing traffic through the detour, and for allowing egress and ingress for residents of Brookshire. These officers will be posted during the entire detour/demolition process.

It is also important to note that representatives of the Woodstock Fire Department as well as Woodstock Police were present at the organizational meeting for the demolition. Although normal traffic will not be allowed to cross the new Ridgewalk Parkway bridge during this demolition process, all emergency vehicles will have immediate access to cross the bridge for response to any emergency events that may occur on the west side of I-575 and in Brookshire subdivision. Emergency vehicles will not be forced to use detours of any type, and any work occurring regarding the demolition will cease until such emergency access requirements have been accomplished.

Please note: all outdoor construction work is subject to the random events of nature. This project is subject to those same random conditions, therefore if the weather is not conducive to conduct this work the last weekend of March the project will be postponed and a new date will be announced. If the project is started and for some unexpected reason, like severe weather, work is interrupted the work will resume immediately with the same heightened sense of control as soon as conditions allow.

A question has also surfaced regarding the new ramps for Ridgewalk Parkway that will be used during the detour of I-575, and whether those ramps will now be available for use after the demolition is complete. Unfortunately the answer is no. The only way these ramps are being used is by use of the posted police officers and other temporary accommodations that the interchange contractor is having to make just during the demolition process. After the detours are ended Sunday, work will resume on the interchange making the ramps inaccessible. The ramps will only be available for use after Ridgewalk Parkway and the intersections of the ramps with Ridgewalk have been completed to a point at which GDOT officials confirm the work is complete, that all public safety requirements have been achieved per plan, and the State can issue a permit for their use. At this time the use of the ramps is expected to occur when the project is completed, which is still targeted for December of this year, 2012.

If you have any further questions or comments regarding these events please contact the following:

CW Matthews Contracting Co., Inc.

Freddy Sumner, Division Vice President, Major Projects: (404) 376-1188

Will Stevenson, Project Superintendent: (404) 392-1094

Georgia Department of Transportation

Lisa Wesley, District 6, Area 1 Engineer: (770) 387-3680

Thank you,

Tal Harber

Capital Projects Manager

Public Works Department

Monday, March 19, 2012
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #035

CW Matthews continues to make great strides in the progress on the Interchange project. The north side lanes of the bridge are now fully complete and Ridgewalk Parkway is going through the changes necessary to tie into this portion of the bridge so that traffic on Ridgewalk can be diverted off of the original bridge. The ramps are well on the way towards completion as well.

As a result of this progress, and if you have been on site lately you have noticed that, a significant paving process is taking place on Ridgewalk Parkway. This process has necessitated the closure of one lane with the use of a pilot truck. Brookshire residents and visitors needing to cross the bridge should expect this paving operation and the single lane closure to continue this Saturday, skipping Sunday, and lasting through the first part of next week. Once this paving work is complete, other safety measures are in place, and GDOT gives approval the Ridgewalk traffic will shift over to the new lanes. This should be a rather "seamless" operation without any significant delays.

This lane shifting will then set up what will be the most significant traffic impact to the project. At this time it is expected that the old Ridgewalk Parkway bridge will be demolished the latter part of this month of March. At the time this date is confirmed, final notification will be issued. An organizational meeting regarding this demolition is taking place this coming week. Following this meeting we should have the confirmation regarding the dates for demolition. The significance of this process is quite important to the region. Traffic along I-575 both north and southbound will be diverted up and down the new ramps in both directions so that bridge demolition can take place with speed and without endangerment to traffic that would otherwise be traveling under the bridge on I-575. Plenty of precautionary measures will be in place including law enforcement officials for public safety and traffic control. The greatest impact will most likely be to the residents of Brookshire subdivision. Obviously travel along Ridgewalk Parkway to and from the west side of I-575 (Brookshire) will not be as free to move as is typical. The residents of Brookshire will need to be well notified of this event and they will need to take potential delays into account during their travels to and from home. They will also need to be encouraged to notify any guests or vendors visiting their properties of this temporary inconvenience.

Representatives of CW Matthews have described the process as follows:

Our plan is to start Friday night, and be completed Sunday. Once the interstate is closed we will work around the clock until the existing bridge has been demolished and all the debris removed so the detour can be removed, thus opening traffic back to I-575. We will have uniformed officers posted at strategic locations to assist with directing traffic to the detour and allowing egress and ingress for residents of Brookshire Subdivision.

As soon as I have authoritative approval to notify of a confirmed date you will receive another email regarding this issue.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this issue please contact me. If I don't know the answer I'll be happy to help find it.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Thursday, January 26, 2012
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #034

Though it has been a while since the last Interchange project update, and although the recent progress is not as readily obvious as the work that has previously been completed; the Interchange project is aggressively moving forward as scheduled.

*All four entrances and exit ramps have been prepared for final surfacing, so what you now see is the final position of the ramps.

*Most of the most obvious recent work has been towards completing the two northern lanes of the new bridge. The west side abutment, the actual driving surface, and the side parapet of those lanes on the bridge is nearing completion.

*The bridge is now being backfilled in preparation for tying in the new Ridgewalk Parkway lanes to the bridge. You'll also notice some additional grading has occurred on the north side shoulder of Ridgewalk Parkway east of the bridge in preparation for installing the new north side lanes from the intersection with Rope Mill Road to I-575.

*There have also been some storm pipes crossings installed under Ridgewalk.

As the project moves closer to the transition of the existing two Ridgewalk Parkway lanes to the first half of the new bridge we will be in touch to give everyone notification of that occurrence. Although notification will be given the transition will be seamless and of little consequence.

Even though the weather has been wet it has been mostly warm therefore there have been no particular weather delays. As we move further into winter the project could be affected by more difficult weather, but C.W. Matthews' plan is working out as they expected. Completion and opening of the entire project is still planned for December of this year.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, November 29, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #033

Despite the occasional wet fall weather and the holidays, progress has continued to move forward with the Interchange project. The sound barrier wall is now complete. All four ramps are now being prepared for the first layer of paving ([see photo of NB Entrance Ramp](#)) ([see photo of NB Exit Ramp](#)), and of most noticeable progress is the installation of all the T beams of the bridge which will support the two new north side Ridgewalk Parkway east/west lanes ([see photo](#)).

To clarify the process:

At the time the two north side lanes of the bridge and Ridgewalk Parkway are complete traffic will be shifted from the existing lanes to the new lanes. Once this occurs the two existing lanes of the bridge will be demolished. The contractor will then begin the construction of the new south side lanes for the final completion of the bridge. All of this process will consume most of next year with the completion date for the entire project still planned for the end of 2012.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, October 25, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #032

The Interchange contractor continues to make great strides in the construction of the project:

- 1) Rope Mill Road and its signalized intersection with Ridgewalk Parkway and Woodstock Parkway is now open. Please note that the final asphalt pavement surface has not yet been installed therefore there is some uneven pavement transitions at the limits of construction of this road. Once final pavement is installed there will be smooth transitions from new sections to existing sections. Also, please note and make others aware that the old Rope Mill Road area is now a *construction zone* and is completely off limits for public driving, parking, or any other access especially due to construction hazards to the public, and potential liabilities for the contractor and GDOT. For these reasons please do not cross nor allow others to cross or move the barricades that have been placed to limit access to this area.
- 2) With the opening of the new Rope Mill Road, the old Rope Mill Road area is under demolition and construction of the northbound entrance ramp is now moving forward ([see photo](#)).
- 3) The steel portion of the sound barrier wall is now complete. Construction is rapidly moving forward of the concrete barrier component of the wall, which is now nearing completion. ([see photo](#))
- 4) Also moving forward is the grading and dirt movement of the northbound exit ramp ([see photo](#)).
- 5) Progress is still being made towards the completion of the abutments and columns for the first two lanes of the new bridge ([see photo](#)).

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact me. There have been issues raised, which have been addressed by either the contractor, the DOT, or the City. A response system is in place for you.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Monday, October 3, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #031

The weather has been ideal over the past couple of weeks for getting work accomplished on the Interchange project, therefore CW Matthews will open the new Rope Mill Road this Wednesday, October 5, 2011 as planned. The opening of this road also means the full four way signalized intersection of Ridgewalk Parkway with Woodstock Parkway and the new Rope Mill Road will also be in full function ([see photo](#)). There will be no periods of closure of any of these roads prior to the opening of the new road.

Also, congratulations go out to CW Matthews for being able to honor their commitment to GDOT and the City of Woodstock for not having to close access to Olde Rope Mill Park at any time during the construction of the new Rope Mill Road. Full access to the park continues by way of the new Rope Mill Road starting Wednesday. Access to Kirk-Rudy's facilities will now be from the new road and upgraded intersection, as well.

Although Rope Mill Road will open Wednesday, I am told that some sidewalk installation, and additional dressing construction activity will still be taking place along this new road for several days. CW Matthews will be using signage and flagmen during this time, therefore construction zone caution should still be used when using this road.

Activities continue onward with all the other parts of the project, too, including the bridge ([see photo](#)), completion of the southbound exit ramp "piano" retaining wall ([see photo](#)), and the sound barrier wall.

If anyone has any questions or comments regarding this project please contact me so that I may assist you.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #030

Work from last week is still in progress. No new information to report.

Friday, September 23, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #029

As was projected in a previous update, the first layer of asphalt paving of Rope Mill Road is now in place. This brings us closer to the swap over from old Rope Mill Road to the new Rope Mill Rd which will provide new access to Kirk-Rudy, to properties along this road, and to the City's Olde Rope Mill Park.

The swap over is being planned to occur on October 5th. This swap will include opening the fourth leg of the intersection of Ridgewalk Parkway with Woodstock Parkway, and the new Rope Mill Road. At that time traffic signalization for all four directions will be operational. In preparation for the swap, C.W. Matthews is going to strategically place message boards within the next day or two that will announce the forth coming change. At the time of the actual change over, the intersection signal will need to be powered down for a short period of time in order to complete the installation. Matthews will have law enforcement present on site to direct traffic during this outage. The exact time of the swap and signal outage has not yet been determined.

A note of interest; once all remaining components of Ridgewalk Parkway are completed, including the pedestrian phase, this intersection will have pedestrian/cross walk signalization.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me.

Thank you,

Tal Harber

Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #028

The Interchange project has had progress on several fronts over the past couple of weeks. Most notable is the progress made on the new Rope Mill Road. About 90% of the new curbing has been installed, which provides a nice ribbon of road, as can be seen from old Rope Mill Road [\(photo\)](#). Also of significant change is the road in front of Kirk-Rudy [\(photo\)](#). This is a major change for this company as they will now be directly located on Rope Mill Road. Matthews' crews are working on the road base for Rope Mill Road now in preparation for paving, which is expected to begin soon.

The bridge is moving along with the retaining wall of the west side abutment for the north side lanes now coming out of the ground [\(photo\)](#). Some foundation work is also now taking place at the mid-span of the bridge in the median of I-575.

The metal sound barrier is moving forward and approaches even closer to its northern terminus [\(photo\)](#). Construction of the concrete barrier component of the wall will begin soon.
If you have any questions or comments regarding the project please contact me.

Thank you,

Tal Harber

Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Wednesday, August 31, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #027

The Interchange Project is really starting to take shape now in ways that are clearly recognizable. Most noticeable is the march of the sound barrier wall north towards Ridgewalk Parkway. Now approximately 60% complete it is easy to see what a considerable and lengthy structural component of the project as a whole the wall is. Enough progress has been made that the first southern most sections are now complete, with grading and landscape stabilization in place ([see photo](#)).

From the vantage point of the existing bridge it is easy to see that the southbound exit ramp retaining wall proceeds along, as well as the new bridge. The east side bridge abutment retaining walls are moving upwards ([see photo](#)).

You may have also noticed that Matthews' crews have now moved back to the intersection of the new Rope Mill Road with Ridgewalk Parkway and Woodstock Parkway in preparation for the tie-in of the new road ([see photo](#)). Most of the new Rope Mill Road is now prepared for the installation of curb and paving waiting for the moments when the critical tie-ins occur. As we get closer to these times we will be back in touch to inform you of the actual tie-in dates on the south down at the park, at Kirk-Rudy's site, and north at the intersection.

****Also of important note:****

I was just notified today that CW Matthews has received approval from GDOT to reduce the speed limit from 65 mph down to 55 mph on I-575 northbound through the project limits. The plan is to place a message board on I-575 next Tuesday, Sept. 6th, advising the traveling public that the speed limit will be 55 mph starting Friday, Sept. 9th.

As always if you have any questions or comments please contact me.

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Wednesday, August 17, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #026

Today I am able to bring you current information regarding the Interchange schedule after attending a meeting with the project leadership. The contractor is making good time on the project and is still on track for a completion and full opening of the project by December of 2012.

Grading work on the new Rope Mill Road is proceeding on the north end in preparation for the tie-in to the existing Rope Mill Road (see [photo 1](#) and [photo 2](#)). This work along with completion of the tie-in at the intersection with Ridgewalk Parkway is expected to be completed resulting in the opening of the new Rope Mill Road by the first of October. It is also expected that the new cul-de-sac in Meridian subdivision will be constructed simultaneous with the Ridgewalk Pkwy/Rope Mill Road work so that paving in this area will be able to take place all at the same time.

Stage 1 bridge work continues with the installation of shoring, piles, and the start of the retaining wall on the east side (see [photo 3](#)). A construction ramp is currently under construction on the west side of the bridge to provide access for installations in this area (see [photo 4](#)).

The retaining wall needed to hold up the southbound exit ramp now has footings and is starting to be raised, and grading will resume on this ramp once the wall is fully in place (see [photo 5](#)). The metal sound barrier wall from Ridgewalk to Towne Lake is now approximately 40% complete. The concrete vehicular barrier wall, which comprises the base of the full wall height, will be started soon with completion expected of the entire wall by the first of November in accordance with the base line schedule.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, August 9, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #025

Work from last week is still in progress. No new information to report.

Wednesday, August 3, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #024

[Bridge Work Photo](#); [Bridgework Photo](#): [SB Exit Ramp Photo](#)

CW Matthews is again on site with sizeable forces. The most notable work that has just recently begun is the construction of the first half-width of the new bridge over I-575 (see photos). The process for the construction of the new bridge and demolition of the old bridge, in order to prevent any road closure of Ridgewalk Parkway, involves the construction of the north half-width of the new bridge, the shifting of both lanes of traffic to this new half, the demolition of the old bridge, the construction of the south half-width of the new bridge, then the opening of the entire width of the new bridge in both directions. CW Matthews' schedule indicates that the first half of the new bridge will be set for use by late winter or early spring of 2012. There should be no significant impact to traffic on Ridgewalk Parkway during this time.

Also underway is further work on the southbound exit ramp. Grading crews are moving dirt in preparation for the construction of a unique retaining wall which will hold up a portion of this ramp (see photo).

The sound barrier wall construction also marches forward with the continued installation of additional footings, structural steel and sound barrier panels. At approximately 6400 lf long (about 1.2 miles) Matthews is just about 1/3 of the way through the metal barrier construction with somewhere around 2000 lf now in place.

Do you have any questions or comments regarding the Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange project or the reporting of the project through these briefs?

Please feel free to contact me if so.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #023

The project continues to be relatively quiet at this time, although some of our locally heavy rains have resulted in the need for erosion control repairs and maintenance. CW Matthews has been on site yesterday and today taking care of these areas.

Also, some work does continue on the sound barrier wall with the setting of additional structural steel columns. No other roadwork or utility work is active at this time. Within the next week or two we should see Matthews' return to full staffing on this project as the demands from some of their other projects is lightening up.

Please contact me with any questions or comments regarding the Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange project.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #022

The Ridgewalk Interchange Project continues to see minimal work by CW Matthews at this time due to their focus on other more pressing projects. At this time it is not clear when they will return in full force to the Ridgewalk Interchange site.

There has been, though, some notable progress on the sound barrier wall over the past couple of weeks. A considerable amount of panels have been installed on the southern end of the project. The beneficiaries of this wall, I'm sure, are happy to see these sound panels being installed.

Please contact me with any questions or comments regarding the Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange project.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #021

Nothing new to report this week.

Wednesday, July 6, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #020

Update 013:

I've been informed by CW Matthews management that this week we will notice a reduction in activity on the Ridgewalk project. They have had to focus on some of their other projects, and as a result had to reduce the work force at Ridgewalk. We should see a return to normal activity in about a week.

The most noticeable progress over the past couple of weeks has been the continuation of the sound barrier wall. The structural steel for the wall is now being raised into place in preparation for the sound panels ([see photo](#)).

Also of interest is the diversion road that Matthews has installed at the northern tie-in of the new Rope Mill Road to the existing Rope Mill Road as you head towards Rope Mill Park (see photo [#1](#) South Bound and [#2](#) North Bound. This diversion is necessary so that Matthews can honor their commitment to maintaining access to the park 100% of the time throughout the duration of the interchange project. As you will notice the realignment and reconfiguration of Rope Mill Road using contemporary engineering guidelines for accessibility and road safety has resulted in a significant cut in the grade in the area of this northern tie-in. The contractor ran into some of that Georgia rock and has had to take special steps and extra time to prepare this area for the final road bed. This diversion is definitely temporary and should only be in place for a couple of months. In the meantime, if you visit Rope Mill Park, please use caution in this area since there is some significant curvature in the diversion that requires cautious driving. Matthews is having to haul across this temporary road, too, which also creates some hazard that should be considered. The elimination of the diversion will come when the new Rope Mill Road is fully opened to public access. The eventual new road will be a very nice road fully curbed, widened compared to the existing, with more efficient storm water mitigation, better sightlines, and improved drivability. The wait and minor inconvenience will provide for a much improved trip to the park.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange project please feel free to contact me. If I don't have the answer I will find the answer for you or steer you in the direction to finding it.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Thursday, June 24, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #019

The sound barrier wall piers continue to be installed. The installation of the piers has progressed about half way to the northern end of the wall. Construction of the wall itself will begin soon.

Progress continues on the fill and grading process for the northbound entrance ramp ([see photo](#)).

Also noticeable is the placement of the Graded Aggregate Base surface on the new Rope Mill Road ([see photo](#)). This assists in minimizing soil erosion and provides a better driving surface during the remaining construction of the road. Also, if you have recently driven down the existing Rope Mill Road you will have noticed a diversion that has been built at the curve adjacent to the new Rope Mill Road cut. This diversion is necessary in order for CW Matthews to keep the road open while simultaneously continuing the grading and dirt removal for the new Rope Mill Road. This is a temporary diversion and will be abandoned once the new Rope Mill Road has been completed. Use of this diversion will begin immediately, and it is projected that this temporary section will be used for at least a couple of months.

Do you have any questions or comments regarding this project? If so please contact me.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #018

The project continues to be on schedule and is progressing accordingly.
No new information to report this week.

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #017

Work on the Interchange continues on schedule.

The sound barrier wall anchor footings continue to be installed, now extending further north towards Ridgewalk Pkwy. The west side retaining walls are continuing towards completion with the critical MES wall cap at the Deer Run playfield now in place in preparation for final backfilling and the remaining construction of the southbound entrance ramp.

The most noticeable recent progress is the installation of fill for the north side lane of Ridgewalk Parkway just west of the bridge, and the progress being made on the cut and fill of grading for the north bound entrance ramp beside the existing Rope Mill Road ([see photo](#)).

As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding this project please contact me.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #016

No new progress to report. The project continues to be on schedule and is proceeding as planned.

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #015

Within the past two weeks the sound barrier wall, which will stretch from Towne Lake Parkway to Ridgewalk Parkway on the west side of I-575, has been started. Borings and concrete piers are part of the first steps of the construction process([see photos](#)). Also making progress is the capping of the retaining wall above the Deer Run Playfield, and the retaining wall backing up to the cul-de-sac of Honey Springs Drive in Deer Run ([see photo](#)). The completion of these walls must be complete so that the sound barrier wall can be constructed through those areas.

Further progress has been made on the new Rope Mill Road right of way, with the continued installation of utilities both above and below ground along the new road bed. The contractor has also been diligently working on erosion control facilities throughout the entire project to make sure local waters continue to be protected.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager

Wednesday, May 18, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #014

No new information to report. Interchange Project continues to progress.

Thursday, May 12, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #013

[Rope Mill Road Photo](#)
[Southbound Ramp Photo](#)

The Ridgewalk Interchange project continues to move forward. The most obvious advances are with the relocation of Rope Mill Road and its eventual tie-in to Ridgewalk Parkway at Woodstock Parkway, and the southbound entrance ramp. Matthews has gotten the new Rope Mill Road up to grade, has installed storm drainage in this new section, and is now prepared for water main, and other utilities to be installed along the new right of way before further road work continues. (see photo)

The past couple of weeks has also seen further progress with the southbound entrance ramp. (see photo) The retaining wall that holds the ramp up along the Deer Run playfield is near completion which will allow for final grading and storm drainage work to take place both above the wall with the ramp and below the wall beside the playfield. Some less obvious progress has been made with down slope retaining wall work and right of way slope grading, particularly on the west side of I-575 from Town Lake Parkway to Ridgewalk Parkway. The significance of this progress is the necessary set-up for the start of the sound barrier wall, which should begin within a week or two.

Additionally, over the past couple of weeks, more clearing and grinding has taken place and dirt removal and hauling. Even though some of the activities are not as obvious, work is taking place in all quadrants of the project. Some equipment has also been brought in for the eventual work on the bridge, but bridge construction is not quite ready to begin at this point.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me here at the City.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, May 3, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #012

No new information to report. The Interchange Project continues to progress.

Tuesday, April 26, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #011

No new information to report. The Interchange Project continues to progress.

Tuesday, April 19, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #010

The Interchange project continues much as described for the past couple of weeks. Progress is really being made, and the project moves ahead nicely. There are a couple of noteworthy accomplishments this week.

The MSE/retaining wall uphill of the Deer Run play field is now under construction, ahead of schedule. This wall must be constructed before the southbound entrance ramp can be completed, must also be in place for the sound barrier wall to proceed through the area once it reaches this point, and it must be built to complete the project beside the play field. This obviously then is a welcomed advancement.

Also of interest is the start of grading to tie the new Rope Mill Road location along the west side of Meridian subdivision into Ridgewalk Parkway.

A couple of pictures of both activities is attached. [Photo 1](#) and [Photo 2](#)

Preparations for the construction of the sound barrier wall are actively in process, too, and construction of the wall itself should start in about one to two weeks. The sound barrier wall will take approximately six months to construct.

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 2:00 PM
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #009

The Interchange work continues onward with no significant hold ups. The inclement weather has played some part as expected, but the schedule moves ahead as planned. Clearing, grubbing, and clean-up is very near completion. Work continues on the southbound entrance ramp from Ridgewalk Pkwy to I-575, and the relocation work of Rope Mill Road continues as well. Off to the east of the new Rope Mill Road location a cleared area can be seen with grading and hauling equipment actively working there. This was a pre-planned and permitted area that is serving as a source of dirt for the project. The project itself had a negative dirt yield, therefore CW Matthews had to find a source to balance the project, and this is that site. This is a privately held parcel and is actually not part of the project. After all the dirt that is needed is removed from this site it will be re-stabilized and vegetated.

The next activities include further work on the southbound entrance ramp, Rope Mill Road work particularly at the tie in with Ridgewalk Parkway, and Matthews has informed that the construction of the sound barrier wall will begin in about two weeks. The construction of this wall will begin at the south end of the wall beside the Town Lake Parkway exit ramp and will then proceed north towards Ridgewalk Parkway. It is expected that construction of this wall will take approximately six months.

As always, if you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me here at the City - tharber@woodstockga.gov.

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Thursday, April 7, 2011 8:34 AM
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #008

No additional information to report. The Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Project continues to progress.

Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:00 PM
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #007

No additional information to report. The Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Project continues to progress.

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:43 PM

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #006

The Ridgewalk/I-575 Interchange Project continues to progress. The most significant strides being made by CW Matthews lately is transfer, placement, and grading of a significant amount of fill dirt for Ramp D/the southbound entrance ramp. As this ramp approaches the intersection with I-575 another critical area is being dealt with. Deer Run subdivision has rolled back the fence on their playfield which has allowed Matthews to proceed with the necessary grading and storm drainage work which, as planned, encroaches on a corner of the playfield. This process has proceeded nicely and Matthews has already made considerable progress towards completing this area.

Also, just about all shear clearing has been complete for the project leaving only grubbing and debris/grinding removal for the vast majority of the project. Those driving down Rope Mill Road will also see a considerable clearing on the east side of the new Rope Mill Road location. This site was planned and permitted by CW Matthews as a dirt borrow site, since this project was "dirt poor" for all of the necessary filling for the project. Upon completion this borrow site will be re-stabilized and re-vegetated. Also taking place at the new Rope Mill Road is some additional permanent storm drainage work.

All in all weather has been very cooperative over the past couple of weeks and the project moves forward positively.

If you have any questions and or comments please feel free to contact me here at the City - tharber@woodstockga.gov. Or 770 592-6000 x-1703.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 11:39 AM
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #005

[Rope Mill Road 03072011](#)
[NB Entrance 03072011](#)

Progress continues with the relocation of Rope Mill Road and now all four ramps of the Ridgewalk Interchange project.

The new section of the Rope Mill Road is fully up to grade and the final road alignment is clearly visible (see photo).

The southbound entrance ramp fill-to-grade progresses, as well as additional clearing for the southbound exit ramp.

Matthews has finished clearing the northbound exit ramp and just started this week on the northbound entrance ramp (see photo).

The southbound entrance ramp and sound barrier wall preparations include a significant amount of grading and storm drainage work. Patience from adjacent property owners is requested as these elements come together through the systematic construction process. All storm and drainage impacts have been studied and designed with a heightened sense of concern will all those impacted.

If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to contact me here at the City and I will carry those issues to those that can address them.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 3:08 PM

Ridgewalk Interchange Update #004

Progress continues with the Interchange. The focus continues to be on completing the grading over the stream crossing under the Rope Mill Road re-location. Road grades continue upward to its final elevation by way of a significant amount of dirt movement.

Speaking of dirt movement. CW Matthews has started hauling dirt from the east side of I-575 over to the west side for filling and construction of the southbound entrance ramp.

Additional clearing has taken place along the western southbound shoulder in preparation for the entrance ramp and the sound barrier wall. Clearing has also taken place in preparation for grading of the southbound exit ramp on the north side of Ridgewalk. A construction entrance has also been constructed and a minimal amount of clearing for the northbound exit ramp.

The project sustained a fairly sizeable hit with the rainstorm this past Tuesday, but seemed to hold up fairly well. CW Matthews had erosion control measures in place and continues to maintain these to minimize any impact to the area that might occur due to such significant storms.

If you see any areas of concern please feel free to contact me for follow-up with CW Matthews.

Thank you,

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, February 22, 2011 5:20 PM
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #003

With the good weather, CW Matthews has made very good progress over the past week on the Ridgewalk Interchange project. Additional clearing has taken place at the southbound entrance ramp and some clearing has begun in this area in preparation for the construction of the sound barrier wall. Included below in this update are some of the details regarding the sound barrier wall that you may find informative:

- 1) The sound wall is of metal construction and will sit above a concrete side barrier (see the attached Detail from the project plans)
- 2) The sound wall/side barrier are located immediately adjacent to the 12 ft shoulder of the interstate. This means the barrier will NOT be away from the roadway next to the wire fence at the property line.
- 3) The height of the concrete side barrier and metal sound barrier vary in height, but on average the combined height of both will be approximately 14 ft tall. (4' concrete side barrier + 10' sound barrier)
- 4) There is grading, drainage, and re-establishment of vegetation behind the sound barrier on the back side of the barrier
- 5) The sound barrier will be "DOT Beige" in color
- 6) The sound barrier starts approximately 300 ft south of Ridgewalk Parkway and extends about 5000 ft south along the shoulder of the interstate all the way down to approximately 400 ft north of Towne Lake Parkway
- 7) Construction of the sound barrier is one of the earliest activities of the project schedule as evidenced by the grading taking place now.
- 8) CW Matthews has indicated the sound barrier will look much like the one located between Towne Lake Parkway and Hwy 92 on the west side of I-575. Included is a photo recently taken of a portion of this barrier. The construction and color will be similar, but this barrier wall is further away from the roadway and does not include a concrete side barrier.

Matthews has also already completed the installation of a large concrete culvert which carries a stream underneath the relocated Rope Mill Road (see the attached picture). They are now starting the cut and fill balancing of this area to raise the elevation of the future Rope Mill Road surface above the culvert.

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department

Tuesday, February 15, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #002

The construction of the Ridgewalk Interchange Project has begun and is now in full swing. Currently CW Matthews is clearing for the future relocation of Rope Mill Road and for the southbound entrance ramp to I-575. This entrance ramp clearing is necessary at this time because this area will serve as the construction access for the sound barrier construction which stretches from the southbound entrance ramp of Ridgewalk Parkway to the southbound exit ramp of Towne Lake Parkway. As soon as some grading and set-up has taken place at this entrance ramp the beginning of the sound barrier construction will follow. Also noticeable at this time is the clearing of the path for Rope Mill Road in an area which requires the relocation of a cul-de-sac in the Meridian community.

There should be no adverse impact to the flow of traffic in the area at this time except for rare times when there are logging trucks maneuvering around or when there is hauling of clearing and grading equipment in and out. There are no plans for any roads, including Rope Mill Road, to be closed or for Olde Rope Mill Park to be closed as a result of the construction of the Interchange although if something happens that requires a closure, unless in the event of an emergency, there will be plenty of public notice.

Next up.....additional clearing, laying of storm pipe for the creek running under the relocated Rope Mill Road, and then the start of grading for the relocation of Rope Mill Road.

Tal Harber
Capital Projects Manager
Public Works Department
City of Woodstock

PHOTOS:

[C012 - View northwest from Ridgewalk Parkway of future location of Rope Mill Road. Shows the need for planned move of Meridian cul-de-sac](#)

[C006 - View southeast from existing Rope Mill Road along clearing of future location of Rope Mill Road](#)

[C008 - View south from exiting Rope Mill Road and clearing for relocation of Rope Mill Road](#)

[C010 - Clearing and logging of southbound entrance ramp from Ridgewalk Parkway to I-575](#)

Tuesday, February 8, 2011
Ridgewalk Interchange Update #001

"GDOT has issued a conditional "Notice to Proceed" for the Ridgewalk Interchange Project. C.W. Mathews will begin on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 with the installation of orange barrier fence, erosion control BMPs, and clearing for the relocation of the portion of Rope Mill Road going to Rope Mill Park. The next phase will be clearing from along Ridgewalk Parkway to Towne Lake Parkway in preparation of the installation of the new sound wall. Impact on local traffic will be minimal during this phase of the project."

Jeffrey Moon
City Manager
City of Woodstock
(770)592-6001